

## Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4955

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6504

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CI

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT CLOSES DOOR ON CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS

REF: A) SANTIAGO 5086 B) SANTIAGO A-87

1. SUMMARY: IN OFFICIAL MINISTRY OF INTERIOR STATEMENT ISSUED SEPT 25, GOC LEADERS IN EFFECT FIRMLY TOLD CHILEAN PUBLIC THEY WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO NOW OR EVER WITH COUNTRY'E PRINCIPAL DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL FORCE, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC). END SUMMARY.

2. STATEMENT ADDRESSED EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN PDC PRESIDENT PATRICIO AYLWIN AND PDC EX-SENATOR RENAN FUENTEALBA, LEFT-WING PARTY LEADER, WHO WAS EXPELLED FROM COUNTRY LAST NOVEMBER AND NOW LIVES IN COSTA RICA. LONG FUENTEALBA LETTER TO AYLWIN OF JULY 25 WAS PUBLISHED IN SANTIAGO SEPT 8. IT GAVE DETAILS OF MEETING EARLIER IN MONTH NEAR CARACAS OF FUENTEALBA AND OTHER EXILED PDC LEADER WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF LESS RADICAL MEMBERS OF FORMER POPULAR UNITY (UP)

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PARTIES OF ALLENDE COALITION (REF A). PDC LEADERS BE-

LIEVE FUENTEALBA LETTER WAS STOLEN, AND NEW GOC PAPER, "EL CRONISTA," PUBLISHED IT WITH SARCASTIC REMARKS. LETTER ITSELF WAS NOT THAT BAD FROM PDC VIEWPOINT, BUT IT INDICATED CLEARLY FUENTEALBA'S DESIRE TO COOPERATE WITH UP FORCES IN OFFERING ALTERNATIVE TO MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

3. AYLWIN'S REPLY, DATED AUG 18, APPEARED IN SEPT 23-24 SANTIAGO PRESS. IT REPROVED FUENTEALBA FOR HAVING PARTICIPATED IN VENEZUELA MEETING AND CALLED ON HIM TO MAINTAIN PARTY DISCIPLINE, SINCE HE HAD GONE AGAINST PARTY POLICY. LETTER STATES THAT PDC REJECTS ANY UNDERSTANDING OR COOPERATION WITH MARXIST-LENINIST PARTIES, AND SEEKS RECONSTRUCTION OF DEMOCRACY IN CHILE BY MEANS OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL/SOCIAL FORCES AND ARMED FORCES.

4. FIRST PDC POINT IS ACCEPTABLE IN PRESENT DAY CHILE, BUT GOC MADE CLEAR SECOND IS NOT. OFFICIAL INTERIOR MINISTRY STATEMENT REJECTED IN STRONG TERMS IDEA THAT "NOW OR IN THE FUTURE" ARMED FORCES WOULD HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH "UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN POLITICAL FORCES AND ARMED" OR WITH "PLAY OF POLITICAL PARTIES WITHIN IDEOLOGICAL AND UNRESTRICTED PLURALISM." STATEMENT ALSO SAID EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WAS BEING INVESTIGATED AS POSSIBLY CONTRARY TO RECESS OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY, AND RAISED THREAT OF PUNISHMENT.

5. COMMENT: PRESENT CHILEAN GOVERNMENT THEREFORE REJECTS CATEGORICALLY PDC HOPE OF ENGAGING IN CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH MILITARY AND WORKING TO CREATE "DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE" TO PRESENT GOVERNMENT, IN COOPERATION WITH MILITARY (REF B). INTERIOR MINISTRY STATEMENT DRAWS HEAVILY ON PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S HARD LINE REJECTION OF CLASSIC LIBERAL DEMOCRACY IN HIS SEPT 11 SPEECH. HIS GENERAL WORDS THEN WERE MADE MORE SPECIFIC NEXT DAY IN REPLY TO QUESTION AT PRESS CONFERENCE FOR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS (SEPT 12), WHEN HE SAID THERE WAS NO PLACE IN CHILE'S FUTURE FOR "OLD PARTIES," BUT THERE MAY EVENTUALLY BE TWO OR THREE PARTIES OF UNDEFINED NEW TYPE.

6. PINOCHET'S AND INTERIOR MINISTRY'S STATEMENTS DO NOT MEAN  
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LCC WILL NOW BAN PDC AND OTHER RECESSED DEMOCRATIC PARTIES. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, HOWEVER, CAN HAVE LITTLE HOPE OF ACTING ON THEIR STRATEGY WHILE PRESENT GOVERNMENTAL LEADERSHIP REMAINS. SENIOR PDC LEADER CONFIRMED TO US THAT THE TWO LETTERS ARE GENUINE, THEIR TEXTS ARE ACCURATE AS PRINTED, AND PARTY CONSIDERS INTERMIN STATEMENT VERY TOUGH.  
POPPER

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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